

METRO EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY (HRA)
JUNE 12, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson, Thomas Cannady, called the June 12, 2014 meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting was held at Aubuchon and Cannady Law Offices at 1931 West Main Street, Belleville, IL. 62226

Members Present:

Thomas Cannady, Chairperson; Karen Kelly, Member; Emil Wilson, Member; Jane Nesbitt, Member; Dr. Marguerite Riley, Member.

Members Absent:

Christine Anderson; David Bollone; Margaret Merrell; and Beverly Sweatman.

Staff Present:

Teresa Parks
Catherine Goebel

Guests: None

INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairperson, Thomas Cannady recognized that presence of a quorum and read the confidentiality statement indicating that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of persons with disabilities on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The Chairperson asked for changes to the agenda. Teresa Parks reports that an additional new complaint concerning case #14-070-9038 had been received and will be reviewed under new business. Parks also reported that Case #14-070-9021 on Midwest Rehabilitation will be reviewed under case closure.

MINUTES:

The Members reviewed the April 10, 2014 meeting minutes. Karen Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes; Thomas Cannady seconded and the motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Teresa Parks reported that a posting for the vacant Metro East HRA position has occurred. In the meantime, Cathy Goebel will be assisting with site visits under a 75 day contract as a retiree. Cathy Wolf, the East Central HRA Coordinator, assisted with site visits in the past month.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Complaints:

14-070-9003: The recipient of mental health services was given ER treatment at a hospital and then was asked to leave the premises even though he did not have transportation back to his residence. Based on follow-up contact with Mike Pintar, Parks reported that Mike made contacts regarding the allegation and learned that an unknown resource asked the recipient to leave versus

the hospital. Mike recommended that the case be closed. Emil Wilson made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation and close the case; Marguerite Riley seconded the motion and the motion carried.

14-070-9030: the complaint states that a school district is avoiding offering services to a four year old student with Autism. The school wants to send the student to a special school more than an hour away and the family believes this is too far for a 4 year old to travel. Parks reported follow-up contact with the family and they reported that at an IEP meeting the school offered to provide home-based services versus transporting the student to a center-based program. The family reported satisfaction for the present but will contact the HRA in the future if problems arise. Karen Kelly made a motion not to accept the complaint for investigation; the motion was seconded by Thomas Cannady and the motion carried.

14-070-9035: A recipient of mental health services was denied access to two books, both dictionaries, and he has been non-violent for 7 years. Emil Wilson made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation which was seconded by Karen Kelly; the motion carried.

14-070-9036: A recipient of mental health services was denied access to medication recommended by an external physician consult; the facility physician did not agree with the consult and recommended alternate treatment. The recipient has a history of torn ligaments and arthritis and the consult recommended Prednisone which the recipient would like to be considered as part of his treatment; the facility physician recommends a Cortisone shot instead. Karen Kelly made a motion to accept the complaint for investigation; the motion was seconded by Thomas Cannady and the motion carried.

14-070-9037: A recipient of mental health services is subjected to weekly, random room and strip searches and restriction of rights notices are not always provided. Also, the recipient has had repeated physician changes since January 2014 and each physician has a different treatment approach. Marguerite Riley made a motion to accept the complaints for investigation; the motion was seconded by Karen Kelly and carried.

14-070-9038: A mental health recipient was refused a request for a unit change even though he was having conflicts with a peer. In addition, he lost his job and 3 months of privileges over a miscommunication with a peer. Also, the complaint states that there is disparity amongst units over restrictions of rights and access to electronics with some units allowing greater leeway and others being more restrictive. A release has not yet been received. Marguerite Riley made a motion to open the case pending the receipt of a release; Thomas Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings, Karen Kelly made a motion to enter closed session at 7:40 pm to discuss confidential case information, draft case reports, case progress and case closures of the following cases: 14-070-9002, 14-070-9011; 14-070-9017; 14-070-9018; 14-070-9019; 14-070-9020; 14-070-9021; 14-070-9022; 14-070-9024; 14-070-9026; 14-070-9027; 14-070-9031; 14-070-9032; 14-070-9034; 14-070-9014; 14-070-9025; 14-070-9029; and 14-070-9023. The Authority returned from

closed session at 8:30 p.m. having taken no action in closed session. A summary of the discussion included the following: identifying providers in new cases; reviewing case progress for the cases listed below; considering draft reports for Cases #14-070-9014, 14-070-9025 and 14-070-9029; and considering case closures for Case #14-070-9023 and 14-070-9021.

Case Progress Reports:

14-070-9002 – Wellsprings of Jerseyville – a site visit is needed and may be coupled with Case #14-070-9022.

14-070-9011 – Memorial Hospital – a site visit is needed.

14-070-9017 – Behavioral Health Alternatives – the case lacks a release. A release was sent in May with no response to date; another attempt will be made to secure a release.

14-070-9018 – FAYCO – a site visit is needed.

14-070-9019 – Alton Mental Health Center – a site visit is needed.

14-070-9020 – Alton Mental Health Center – A site visit is needed.

14-070-9022 – Wellsprings Resources – The release lacked a witness signature and needs to be resent before scheduling a site visit.

14-070-9024 – Alton Mental Health Center – A site visit is needed.

14-070-9026 – Alton Mental Health Center – A site visit is needed.

14-070-9027 – Meridian Health Care – Additional information needs to be gathered and reviewed before a report can be written.

14-070-9031 – South Central Transportation – A site visit is needed.

14-070-9032 – Alton Mental Health Center – the case lacks a release; a release was sent in May with no response to date. Another attempt will be made to secure a release.

14-070-9034 – Touchette Hospital – the case lacks a release; a release was sent in May with no response to date. Another attempt will be made to secure a release.

Reports of Findings:

14-070-9014 – Alton Mental Health Center – Emil Wilson made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions and pending a final review by Karen Kelly; Tom Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried.

14-070-9025 – Alton Mental Health Center – Emil Wilson made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions and pending a final review by Karen Kelly. Tom Cannady seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

14-070-9029 – Alton Mental Health Center – Emil Wilson made a motion to approve the draft report of findings with revisions and pending a final review by Karen Kelly. Tom Cannady seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Case Closures:

14-070-9023 – The Fountains – Marguerite Riley made a motion to close the case and make the findings part of the public record. The provider did not want its response published. Thomas Cannady seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

14-070-9021 – Midwest Rehabilitation – Karen Kelly made a motion to close the case without an investigation as the issues are deemed moot. Thomas Cannady seconded the motion and the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting date is set for August 14, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

Emil Wilson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Marguerite; the motion carried.

Marguerite Riley, Recorder